

A chronology of bull trout events

- Oct. 30, 1992** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) received a petition to list bull trout as an endangered species throughout its range from the Friends of the Wild Swan, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, and the Swan View Coalition.
- Jan. 7, 1993** The USFWS received a second petition requesting the listing of bull trout in the Klamath River Basin from the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.
- May 17, 1993** The USFWS published a 90-day petition finding determining that the petitioners had provided substantial information indicating that listing of bull trout may be warranted.
- June 10, 1993** The USFWS published a 12-month finding that listing was warranted for bull trout within the coterminous U.S., but precluded by other higher priority work. Due to the lack or unavailability of information, the USFWS found that listing bull trout in Alaska and Canada was not warranted.
- Nov. 1, 1994** Two of the petitioners, Friends of the Wild Swan and Alliance for the Wild Rockies, filed a lawsuit challenging the 1993 finding.
- June 12, 1995** The USFWS republished the 12-month finding concluding that listing was still warranted but precluded.
- June 22, 1995** The Oregon Federal District Court issued an order declaring the 1994 challenge to the original finding moot because the USFWS had, by then, issued a 1995 finding. The court instructed the plaintiffs to amend their complaint to challenge the 1995 finding if they so desired. The plaintiffs declined to amend their complaint and appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- April 2, 1996** The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the District Court and remanded the case back to the District Court for further proceedings, ruling that this type of action was capable of repetition but evades judicial review.
- Nov. 13, 1996** The Oregon Federal District Court granted the plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment, directing the USFWS to reconsider the 1994 finding and respond to the court within four months. The ruling included specific direction to consider only the information in the USFWS record at the time of the original 1994 finding.

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| March 13, 1997 | In compliance with the District Court order, the USFWS issued a reconsidered finding based solely on the 1994 record, which concluded that two populations of bull trout warranted listing (Klamath River and Columbia River population segments). |
| March 25, 1997 | Plaintiffs petitioned the court to compel the USFWS to issue a proposed rule within 30 days to list the Klamath and Columbia River bull trout populations based on the 1994 record. |
| April 11, 1997 | The USFWS and the plaintiffs signed an agreement stipulating that within 60 days the USFWS would complete a proposed rule to list the Klamath River population segment as endangered and the Columbia River population segment as threatened. |
| June 10, 1997 | A proposed rule to list the Klamath River basin bull trout population segment as endangered and the Columbia River population segment as threatened was issued by the USFWS. |
| Dec. 4, 1997 | The Oregon Federal District Court ordered the USFWS to reconsider several aspects of the 1997 finding concerning listing of bull trout. The court directed the USFWS to: consider whether listing of the bull trout is warranted throughout its range; whether listing is warranted throughout the coterminous U.S.; and if the Service determines that listing throughout its range, or throughout the coterminous U.S. is not warranted, or is warranted but precluded, whether listing of the Coastal-Puget Sound distinct population segment is warranted. The court subsequently directed the USFWS to prepare its response by June 12, 1998. |
| June 10, 1998 | The USFWS published in the Federal Register a final rule to list the Klamath River and the Columbia River bull trout population segments as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. |
| Aug. 11, 1998 | The USFWS emergency-listed the Jarbidge River (Idaho, Nevada) bull trout population segment as endangered after road crews from the Elko County Road Department destroyed 27 percent of the river's bull trout habitat while conducting unauthorized road construction activities. |
| Jan. 12-14, 1999 | The USFWS convened the first meeting of the bull trout recovery team in Boise, Idaho, to begin developing the bull trout recovery plan. The team members consist of USFWS personnel and representatives of State fish and wildlife resource agencies in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Plans for future meetings and regularly scheduled conference calls were established. The recovery team expanded later to include USFWS representatives for the Jarbidge River and Coastal-Puget Sound distinct population segments. |

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| Jan.-March 1999 | Recovery unit teams began to meet during the first quarter of 1999. There are 27 recovery units in total: 22 recovery units in the Columbia River, 1 in the Klamath River, 1 in the Jarbidge River, 1 in the St. Mary-Belly River, and 2 in the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segments. Participation from a wide variety of interests and background has been encouraged. Recovery unit teams vary in composition, and often include Federal, State, Tribal and private biologists working with representatives of local watersheds, private landowners and industry and conservation organizations. The teams often include experts in biology, hydrology and forestry, as well as natural resource users and stakeholders with interest and knowledge of bull trout and the habitats they depend on for survival. |
| April 8, 1999 | The USFWS published a final rule in the Federal Register to list the Jarbidge River population of bull trout as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. |
| Nov. 1, 1999 | The USFWS published a final rule in the Federal Register to list all bull trout in the coterminous United States as threatened. This determination was based on its finding that the Coastal-Puget Sound and St. Mary-Belly River population segments are threatened, along with earlier findings of threatened status for the Klamath River, Columbia River, and Jarbidge River population segments. The USFWS also published a notice of intent to prepare a proposed special rule pursuant to section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act. The notice of intent requested information and comments from the public on what form the proposed regulations should take. |
| March 7, 2000 | The USFWS invited Native American tribes to participate on the bull trout recovery team, and encouraged participation through representative organizations. |
| Jan. 26, 2001 | Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Inc. and Friends of the Wild Swan, Inc. filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court of Oregon challenging the failure of the USFWS to designate critical habitat for bull trout. |
| Jan. 14, 2002 | USFWS and plaintiffs entered into a settlement agreement, which stipulated that critical habitat determinations for five populations of bull trout would be made. The schedule stipulates that the critical habitat proposal for the Columbia and Klamath distinct population segments would be submitted for publication in the Federal Register by Nov. 12, 2002, with a final rule submitted for publication in the Federal Register by Oct. 1, 2003. A critical habitat proposal for the Coastal-Puget Sound, Jarbidge, and St. Mary-Belly River distinct population segments was submitted for publication in the Federal Register by Oct. 1, 2003, with a final rule submitted for publication in the Federal Register by Oct. 1, |

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| Feb. 5, 2002 | “Dear Interested Party” letters sent to more than 900 entities representing Tribes, States, industry, academia, conservation groups, etc. soliciting input on bull trout critical habitat prior to finalization of the draft proposed rule. The USFWS agreed to implement this effort as part of the Jan. 14, 2002, settlement agreement with the plaintiffs. |
| June 2002 | <p>Preliminary critical habitat proposals sent to recovery unit team members for review and comment. Because of the close link to the draft recovery plan, comments from knowledgeable team members were considered important in finalizing the draft critical habitat proposal.</p> <p>Recovery unit teams include federal, state, tribal and private biologists working with representatives of local watersheds, private landowners and industry and conservation organizations. The teams included experts in biology, hydrology and forestry, as well as natural resource users and stakeholders with interest and knowledge of bull trout and the habitats they depend on for survival.</p> |
| November 2002 | Draft critical habitat proposal for the Columbia and Klamath distinct population segments submitted for publication in the Federal Register. |
| May 2003 | All remaining bull trout critical habitat work stopped indefinitely due to lack of funds. |
| October 2003 | Work rescheduled for critical habitat proposal. As part of a settlement agreement with the plaintiffs, USFWS agreed to finalize critical habitat for the Columbia and Klamath distinct population segments by Sept. 21, 2004, and propose critical habitat for the Coastal-Puget Sound, Jarbidge, and St. Mary-Belly River distinct population segments by June 15, 2004. |
| April 13, 2004 | The USFWS publishes a notice in the Federal register announcing it will conduct a 5-year review for bull trout to examine their current status. |
| June 2004 | Draft recovery plans for the Coastal-Puget Sound and Jarbidge population segments published with 90-day public comment period. |
| June 2004 | The proposed critical habitat designations for the Coastal-Puget Sound, Jarbidge, and St. Mary-Belly River distinct population segments were submitted for publication in the Federal Register with a 60-day public comment period. A final rule will be submitted for publication in the Federal Register by June 15, 2005. |